

THE

QUILL

A MAGAZINE FOR JOURNALISTS



May, 1953

"THE PEOPLE'S RIGHT TO KNOW"

Dr. Harold L. Cross (left) discusses his new book on the legal background of access to news with three editors at the ASNE convention. See pages 2-7.

30 Cents



BRIG. GENERAL ALFRED H. JOHNSON, USAF, Chairman, Munitions Board Joint Petroleum Committee, briefs officers on America's 168,000 mile network of oil pipelines. Map shows major arteries. Dash lines represent

facilities built since 1945 or under construction. Developed by oilmen in peacetime to keep costs low, oil pipelines are a vital defense asset, are safe from submarine attack, insure uninterrupted delivery of oil products.

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THE QUILL for May, 1953

Bylines in This Issue

PUBLICATION last month of Dr. Harold L. Cross' book on his research into the legal aspects of the press' continuing battle for greater freedom of information was a major event in the literature of journalism. The editors of *THE QUILL* wanted to bring this book to the attention of its readers as effectively as possible.

Naturally they turned to **James S. Pope**, chairman of the freedom of information committee of the American Society of Newspaper Editors, sponsor of Dr. Cross' work. Jimmie Pope has not only been a leader in the nationwide struggle for fuller access to public records. He has also been very closely linked with Dr. Cross' research and publication.

But Jimmie Pope is a modest man who felt that he had said enough. In fact he said it very well indeed in a formal foreword to the book. So *THE QUILL* secured permission of author and publisher to reprint that foreword. It appears on page 7 as "New Book Charts the No Man's Land of 'The People's Right to Know.'"

At risk of further damage to Jimmie Pope's modesty, the editors would like to recall that only last November he was elected a Fellow of Sigma Delta Chi for his achievements in journalism. Among these, the professional journalistic fraternity cited his "unflagging devotion and untiring work toward continued freedom of the press and interchange of information at local, state, national and international levels."

Now executive editor of the Louisville *Courier-Journal* and *Times*, Jimmie Pope spent fourteen years on the staff of the Atlanta *Journal* where he was reporter, city and managing editor. He joined the staff of the *Courier-Journal* in 1940, as managing editor, and became executive editor of both newspapers two years ago. He attended Emory University.

(With Dr. Cross on the cover of this issue are, from the left, Basil L. Walters, executive editor of the *Knight Newspapers*, Mr. Pope and Lee Hills, executive editor of the *Detroit Free Press* and *Miami Herald*. "Stuffy Walters preceded Jimmy Pope as chairman of the ASNE committee on freedom of information. Lee is president of Sigma Delta Chi. The picture was taken during the recent ASNE session in Washington.)

A survey indicates that editors in towns with only one paper feel an extra responsibility to open their

columns to conflicting opinions but sometimes find their readers do not reciprocate. **Sam Talbert** discusses this responsibility and raises a further challenge in "How Open a Forum Does the Monopoly Newspaper Offer?" (page 11).

Sam reports that he spent the first dozen years of his life fishing in the swamps surrounding a turpentine farm in south Georgia. He launched his journalistic career at 13 with an article on the evils of the Hoover administration which was submitted to *Harper's* magazine. To his everlasting chagrin he found that *Harper's* was momentarily out of the market for that type of material.

After working two years on weekly newspapers in Georgia, Sam earned a degree in journalism from the University of Florida. He edited the *Uni-*

SCHEDULED FOR JUNE IN THE QUILL

For Distinguished Service—The winners of Sigma Delta Chi's annual awards for outstanding journalistic performances are announced on page 17 of this issue. In June a special Awards Number will tell the full story of these and other honors in many fields.

Newspaperman into Reader—When a veteran reporter and editor retires, he becomes an especially discerning newspaper reader. Harold Duane Jacobs thinks today's papers are great—he reads a score of 'em—but he'll tell how, and why, he thinks they could be greater.

versity News, alumni newspaper, while at Gainesville. He served in the Navy as a communications and public information officer.

Since 1946 he has obtained the M.A. degree in journalism from the University of Florida and the Ph.D. degree in mass communications from the State University of Iowa. He has served on the journalism faculties at Lehigh University and Iowa and now, at 35, is associate professor of journalism and head of the advertising sequence at the University of Mississippi. He has written two booklets on classified advertising.

THE "country correspondent" may take pen in hand to do some wonderful freewheeling between fact and opinion, exhibiting a fine contempt for spelling and sentence structure along

the way. But he (more often she) is nevertheless a backbone of weekly newspapers, as well as a valued contributor to most smaller dailies.

In "A Wonderful Time Was Had by All" (page 10), **Donald Duncan** humorously and good-humoredly cites some examples that will stir memories in many a newspaperman who has gone on to bigger newsrooms as well as those who have stayed in smaller communities. This, as he says, is the real "grass roots" reporting, even when some of the dirt clings to the roots.

Now news editor of the *Shelton-Mason County Journal*, a leading weekly newspaper in Washington, Don has been in weekly newspaper work since he was graduated from the University of Washington in 1949. Previously he worked for the *Omak* (Wash.) *Chronicle* and the *South Bend* (Wash.) *Journal*.

When not busy as reporter, photographer and copyreader of country correspondence, he turns correspondent himself for such dailies as the *Seattle Times* and *Post-Intelligencer*, the *Tacoma News-Tribune*, and the *Daily Olympian*. Last year he won first place in statewide sports reporting competition, sponsored by the Washington State Press Club.

IN "Few Can Read It, But an English Language Press Dominates Pakistan," (page 8), an American-educated Pakistanian journalist explains and evaluates a seeming paradox. He is **Nasir Ahmad Farooki**, former special correspondent for and magazine editor of *Dawn*, leading daily in the new British Commonwealth state situated on the wings of the Indian sub-continent.

Now completing a tour as a special "guest editor" with the Meriden (Conn.) *Record* and *Journal* and the Hartford *Times*, Farooki will return to Pakistan next October after gathering material for a book in Europe and the Middle East this summer. (On his return home, he hopes to find the Sigma Delta Chi key that was mailed there more than two years ago.)

In extensive travels in Asia and Europe as well as this country, he has covered assignments including the Kashmir dispute between his country and India, the British Parliament, American elections and the current Spanish scene. He has contributed to *Business Week*, the *Wall Street Journal*, the *Christian Science Monitor* and other American periodicals. He has written editorials and columns for the Connecticut papers during the last six months and more.

Farooki attended Stanford Univer-



From where I sit by Joe Marsh

Tiny Sure Got "Alarmed"

Tiny Jackson, the patrolman, caused quite a stir last night—but let him tell you about it:

"I was making my regular eleven o'clock rounds—trying all the doors up and down Main Street. I came to Johnson's Jewelry Store—tried their door and it seemed a bit loose. So I shook it harder.

"So to make doubly sure I shook it doubly hard. Then everything happened at once—bells started clanging, crowds collecting, the Chief driving up with the siren going full blast. When he saw it was me who set the burglar alarm off, he put his revolver away—but what confusion!"

From where I sit, even the best of intentions can sometimes go wrong. It pays to take our time and proceed with caution—whether it's trying a door or advising our neighbors what beverage they should or shouldn't have with a meal. Some folks prefer a glass of temperate beer, others might choose iced tea—but if we just respect the other's rights, we'll always "ring the bell" with our neighbors.

Joe Marsh

sity, where he took his M.A. in journalism at the age of 20.

In the February issue of *The Quill*, a Columbus newspaperman registered an outspoken protest against a bar association proposal to bar photographers from all Ohio trials. In this issue an Oregon reporter-photographer tells how the touchy matter of cameras in court was worked out with one judge in his state.

About the time his article reaches you, **Ken Metzler**, author of "Pix Okay If Jurors Don't Stray" (page 15), will be embarking on a three-month tour of Europe with Mrs. Metzler if their well laid plans progress according to schedule.

For the last two years, Ken has been a reporter for the Roseburg (Ore.) *News-Review*, doubling as a photographer when occasion demands. During

his college days at the University of Oregon, he held editorial positions on the *Oregon Daily Emerald*.



KEN METZLER

A fighting Indian newspaper editor of the days of Gandhi regards freedom of the press as no academic question. It was one idea for which he went to prison and risked worse before India won its independent status. But as an "exchange person" visiting the United States under the Smith-Mundt Act, he has cheerfully revised another set of ideas, the typical Indian preconception of us as a bunch of philistine dollar grabbers.

W. E. O'Brien presents a picture of Ranbir Singh, managing editor of the New Delhi (India) *Daily Milap* in "An Indian Editor Reports on America" (page 12). This is O'Brien's second contribution to *The Quill*. In the July, 1952, issue he wrote on his own journalistic field of press contact and advisor for members of Congress.

He is administrative assistant to South Dakota's Senator Karl E. Mundt, a co-author of the bill which brought Singh to the United States. He is a former school teacher who went to Washington with Mundt fourteen years ago. He has not only learned the ways of newspapers, radio and television by first hand experience; he has supplemented his work with professional journalism courses at American University.

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The Right to Know Needs Knowing

It seems to me that even in the last year or so I have more and more frequently encountered misunderstanding of the very meaning, let alone the importance, of the group of basic freedoms that include the press. There is certainly confusion about freedom of the press as such and the newer, more embracing term, freedom of information.

I can't blame laymen too much for not understanding the precise meanings of these terms. Even the professional journalist finds himself hard put for words to describe these rights or to differentiate accurately between them, insofar as there are differences.

But this should not discourage us as missionaries. I feel strongly that where there is seeming inability to understand what a right is, indifference to its preservation will follow.

It is easy to oversimplify such definitions. I frequently explain, for example, that freedom of the press is the constitutionally guaranteed right to publish it if you can get it, while freedom of information involves access to news (and other forms of knowledge, of course) as well as the right to disseminate it.

COULD follow this up with a current illustration. Recently the North Carolina legislature, faced with a record state budget, rushed through a bill providing secrecy for appropriations committee sessions. Actual voting, of course, remained open.

I could understand, if not approve, the budget-makers' desire for privacy. It is hard enough to apportion a state's income with pressure groups snapping at your heels, without having the press bring down the pack in full cry. But it is better to have an honest legislator embarrassed for thinking out loud than to let the dishonest ones horse trade behind closed doors.

Up to this point, I should say that North Carolina's offense was against the broad theory of freedom of information rather than against any specific statutory guarantee of freedom of the press. The whole area of access to public records has been a sort of legal no man's land from state to state and year to year. (In his new book, discussed elsewhere in this issue of *THE QUILL*, Dr. Harold Cross puts up some important guideposts in that area.)

But the North Carolina legislators also proposed fines and even jail terms for anyone who might violate this secrecy. There, I suggest, lay a plain violation of basic freedom of the press. In theory, any newspaper that printed anything about the budget discussions might be presumed on the face of publication to have invaded the meeting, even though the story came from a talkative committee member instead of up a hot air register.

Unfortunately for such pat examples, even freedom of the press is not as simple as the eloquent brevity of the Bill of Rights seems to make it. There is no question about the purpose of the First Amendment as Thomas Jefferson and others intended it. But the language says "Congress shall make no laws . . . abridging . . ." This did not automatically restrict the powers of state legislatures. Most state constitutions followed the federal one in this, but it is not universal.

So further resort has been made to the Fourteenth Amendment, adopted in 1868, which says: "No State shall make or enforce a law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law . . ." But even the sum of these, in the light of subsequent court decisions, is by no means absolute.

SO it is with considerable interest that I read, in the current *Nieman Reports*, a talk by Arthur Hays Sulzberger at an Alexander Hamilton dinner at Columbia University. Recalling Jefferson's insistence on "spelling out" the Bill of Rights, which the *New York Times* publisher thoroughly approved, he also quoted Hamilton:

"What signifies a declaration, that 'the liberty of the press shall be inviolably preserved.' What is the liberty of the press? Who can give it any definition which would not leave the utmost latitude for evasion? I hold it to be impracticable; and from this I infer that its security, whatever fine declaration may be inserted in any constitution respecting it, must altogether depend on public opinion, and on the general spirit of the people and of the government. Here, after all, must we seek for the only solid basis of our rights."

Hamilton was at least partly right. The Argentine constitution was copied after ours, including freedom of expression. But consider what happened to its press when "the general spirit of the people and of the government" became that of Juan Peron.

We have the First Amendment and other laws and thank heaven for them against any sneak thieves who might attempt to steal our freedoms but would never dare make a frontal attack on the Constitution. But in a day where freedoms tend more and more to be traded for an illusion of security, constitutions and statutes can be little or no better than the public will behind them.

The work of various journalistic groups in alerting the public to threats against these freedoms is of the utmost importance. But we must educate as well as alert. Every journalist has a duty to explain as well as to defend freedom of the press and of information generally. You cannot adjure people not to sin unless you tell them what sin is.

CARL R. KESLER

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"... in the conduct of the ... editorial page"

MEMORANDUM

from

JOHN S. KNIGHT

To all editors in charge of editorial pages:

I hope that in the conduct of our editorial pages, you and your colleagues will always remember that it is primarily our duty to inform, rather than instruct.

I am not implying that we should be without positive opinions because it is our duty to cause people to think and very often this can best be accomplished by stating our views so cogently that no reader of a Knight newspaper can possibly be in doubt as to our position.

Nevertheless, I like the phrase which precedes our editorials, "As We See It--." By its use, we indicate that we do have definite views on the subjects of the day but are not completely obsessed with a sense of our own infallibility.

It is unnecessary, I know, to remind you that we must be scrupulously fair to all sides in the presentation of our editorial policies. This does not mean the dilution of our opinions but rather that our editorials must be based upon facts that are well documented.

Above all, avoid the use of watered-down, please-every-body editorials which might better be consigned to the waste basket. There is no room on our editorial pages for verbose "essays" which come to no very firm conclusions.

Remember at all times that you can have full freedom to approach every subject with an open mind. We are not obligated to any political party or special interest.

The Knight Newspapers have long been renowned for unbiased, factual reporting and the independence of their editorial pages.

Let us adhere to that tradition and improve it, if we can, with simple and pungent writing.



The Knight newspapers are edited to be read thoroughly and thoughtfully. Such newspapers produce *profitable* results for their advertisers.

THE KNIGHT NEWSPAPERS

Akron Beacon Journal • Chicago Daily News • The Detroit Free Press • The Miami Herald

THE QUILL for May, 1953

New Book Charts the No Man's Land Of "The People's Right to Know"

Harold L. Cross' study of access to public records is at once a guide for journalists, a legal reference and a textbook for scholars. Here is the story of how it came to be published.

By JAMES S. POPE

In April the Columbia University Press published a book of major importance not only to all journalists but to lawyers and public officials as well as to the general public whose rights are its subject matter. It is "The People's Right to Know: Access to Public Records and Proceedings," by Harold L. Cross, outstanding legal scholar on the press. Dr. Cross' research and publication were sponsored by the American Society of Newspaper Editors.

The editors of THE QUILL felt that an effective way to call proper attention to this milestone in the fight for freedom of information would be to print the foreword to Dr. Cross' book. Written by James S. Pope, executive editor of the Louisville Courier-Journal and Times, it is at once the story behind the book and an evaluation of its merits.

THIS book* has several characteristics, all of them significant in the never-won struggle for a maximum of basic freedoms in a free society. It is a report, a legal-reference work, a potential textbook, and in its broadest aspect an account of American experiments in one segment of the still incompletely defined relationship between government and people.

First of all, no reader should forget that these pages represent a report by Harold L. Cross to the American Society of Newspaper Editors. This report discharges a creative commission without precedent in the Society's history. It is the embodiment of a purpose which has taken rapid form within our group and is now being championed effectively by other groups and individuals throughout the nation.

That a lawyer's study of the people's right of access (the press is only an agent) to information about their governments should grow into a work of such magnitude and moment was

partly because ASNE members abruptly awakened to their responsibility for closed news channels, but more than this because Harold Cross caught a vision clearer than ours and produced a potent manual-of-arms for a battle we had only begun to comprehend.

The first chairman of a domestic Freedom of Information Committee, Basil L. Walters of the Knight Newspapers, sounded repeated warnings



Harold L. Cross has become well known as attorney for the New York Herald Tribune, Columbia University lecturer and expert on press law.

that newspapers were permitting the people's right to information to go by default. The committee which succeeded his in 1950 took these warnings seriously.

We had to. Editors were beginning to fight back against suppression, and the committee began to receive requests for advice and assistance from all over the place.

From papers large and small, the queries came: What can we do to gain admission to meetings of our city

council (or our local school board or our county commission)? Our county clerk (or our sheriff or police chief) has closed his records to us; how can we force them open to get legitimate public information?

Our committee did not know. Each of us had some notion of how he would handle such an issue for himself, but actually none of us knew what light the various state laws might throw on the problem. And we had only the foggiest idea of whence sprang the blossoming Washington legend that agency and department heads enjoyed a sort of personal ownership of news about their units. We knew it was all wrong, but we didn't know how to start the battle for reformation.

THE chairman of the 1950 committee went before the board of directors and President Dwight Young of the Dayton Journal Herald, and asked for help. Specifically, he asked for funds to retain Harold Cross, who had become nationally respected as one of the top newspaper lawyers in the country as counsel for the New York Herald Tribune, and as lecturer on libel and other laws affecting journalism at Columbia University.

"Retain" is an extravagant word. Harold Cross had retired, and we begged his collaboration, which he gave generously for a token payment that would hardly have covered secretarial work for research and the preparation of his manuscript.

From that time on, the unfocused protests against news suppression took on the firm, confident character of a true resistance movement. Harold Cross knew, or learned with miraculous speed, what statutes and court decisions affected individual cases of suppression. The committee began to give specific answers to inquiries. The public officials who had been denying access to the public or its agents suddenly found themselves challenged and humbled.

Out of his explorations of this
(Turn to page 16)

* "The People's Right to Know: Access to Public Records and Proceedings," by Harold L. Cross. Columbia University Press, New York. 405 pages. \$5.50.

Long British rule, the education of a small governing class and the mechanical advantages of a European alphabet led to this paradox:

Few Can Read It, But an English Language Press Dominates Pakistan

By NASIR AHMAD FAROOKI

PAKISTAN is an Asian nation of eighty million people, of whom only half of one per cent, or even less, can read and understand English. Yet English language newspapers and journals are the most influential, widely circulated, and well produced.

This is a fact which the Western mind can hardly comprehend, and much less appreciate in its understanding of contemporary Asian problems. Pakistan, with perhaps India, is the only such nation in the world wherein journalism in a foreign language flourishes, and will continue to flourish for the next few decades.

Outwardly it is a paradox. The vast majority of the people of Pakistan cannot read English and for that matter cannot even read and write their own national language. And yet in the cities, colleges, government offices, business concerns, military, and all professional fields one finds people reading newspapers and journals printed in English, and for the most part published in Pakistan.

One explanation is obvious. The vast majority of the country's population which lives in the country and small towns does not, and cannot, buy newspapers and journals printed in English, or the native languages. It is the city dwellers who constitute the consumers for these publications.

The uninitiated may well ask why the native journals are not popular in the cities, and why do people there prefer English publications?

The reason for this lies in the changing structure of Pakistan and prior to that in the entire Indian sub-continent's history. During the British rule of the sub-continent it was not only fashionable but financially desirable to know English. All the major professions, civil services and business opportunities were available to those who could understand English.

In fact, in the first half of the 19th century the Muslims of India opposed the study of any foreign languages. But the teachings of the great Muslim political theorist and thinker, Sir Syed Ahmad, brought the fact home that for advancement in the national as

well as the international field, a knowledge of English is necessary.

Since then English has been taught as a compulsory subject in all grade schools, and it remains a compulsory subject right through the university. This emphasis on English lingers even in the present day highly nationalistic Pakistan.

The result has been the creation of a small, well-knit, educated lower middle-class and higher strata of society. And this group, concentrated largely in big cities, forms the backbone of journalism in English.

At the same time the commercial factors cannot be ignored. For a newspaper to run successfully there has to be an income from advertisements. These ads are only forthcoming in the richer cities. As a result, all the journals are concentrated in the two major cities while a few other cities have insignificant publications.

FROM these two cities are published in all the languages more than twenty-five dailies, eighteen weeklies, and fifty-six monthlies and bi-monthlies. Very few of these, however, have any significance. And among the significant ones the English language publications are by far the best.

One reason for this superiority lies in the mechanical aspects of production. Whereas the English publications have the advantage of linotypes, modern picture reproduction and presses, the Urdu (Pakistan national language) publications have still to rely on the out-moded stone-litho process. The Urdu script is more or less like a short hand, and no acceptable type has been found for it.

The final product of Urdu journalism lacks brilliance, the ink tends to fade out after a few thousand copies, and the reproduction of pictures is poor. So the English publications with their modern mechanical production are progressing, while the pace of Urdu journalism is slow indeed.

Karachi, the federal and commercial capital of Pakistan, and Lahore, the cultural capital of Pakistan, are the country's two newspaper cities.

From Karachi is published *Dawn*, which has the largest circulation among them all. It is the semi-official mouthpiece of the Pakistan government and of the political party now in power.

The second most important daily is the *Pakistan Times* published from Lahore. This is an unofficial mouthpiece of the opposition, once edited by a poet and intellectual of no mean standing. This editor was recently sentenced to a prison term for attempting to overthrow the government by a military coup in conjunction with a group of Army officers.

Also simultaneously published from Lahore and Karachi is the *Civil & Military Gazette*. This paper was originally run by British interests, and till last year had an English editor and production editor. Rudyard Kipling once worked here as an assistant editor.

Apart from these there are minor English dailies with little political significance. From Karachi are also published several excellent periodicals and social magazines. These are expensive, high class publications, and cater only to the top income brackets. From these cities also appear weekly magazines of opinion which imitate yellow journalism and at the same time try to retain certain sober undertones. The total outcome is frequently a mess, if not worse.

SMALL, insignificant, and poor as these journals and periodicals may be (by American standards) they exert a great political and social influence over their communities and country. Since Pakistan is run largely by middle-class people who constitute their readers, these publications have a great say in affairs.

This creates a curious situation. This middle-class and higher strata of the cities who run the government and the other agencies depend on newspapers for news and views, and are even mortally afraid of them. Yet the newspapers derive all their authority from these classes and are also



Nasir Ahmad Farooki appears here at work as a guest writer for the Meriden (Conn.) Journal. He has been a departmental editor and correspondent for Dawn, leading daily in his native Pakistan to which he is returning this year.

guided by their whims. Between them the country as a whole is run.

This, however, should not be interpreted as suggesting that there is no democracy in Pakistan. There is a universal franchise. But those elected to office by the masses are invariably the middle-class city workers, professional people, or the landed gentry. And all these groups depend on the newspapers for political power and influence.

On the face of it, the newspapers have no say in the trend of elections. But once the elections are over, then the newspapers have a great say in the selection of the cabinets, filling up of top posts, and the appointment of ambassadors. And it is this cyclic reaction of currents that gives the newspapers their influence.

This indeed is the paradox. Newspapers derive authority from the government and the middle-class and often bitterly attack them; the government and the middle-class depend on the newspaper for political power, and at times even ignore it.

This situation is likely to prevail until there is widespread literacy and

the industrial wealth of the nation grows and spreads over the country to enable the other communities to have their own newspapers.

EVEN the journalist working on the English publications of Pakistan is a species of his own. Except for the young blood which took to journalism as a profession, the others are largely drifters into the occupation. These people for the most part failed in other professions they tried. They haven't made any significant success in journalism either.

During the British rule of the sub-continent English journalism was meant exclusively for the Britisher. The natives who joined it were paid so little that it was seldom worth it and rarely attracted any top talent.

During the years of national consciousness journalism did attract some people who were fired with a spirit of nationalism. But the others included many who had failed to get a commission in the army, placement in the civil service, or were misfits as college professors.

The result was that journalism was

considered a third rate profession. In terms of prestige and income it was graded low. Reporters used to get \$15 a month and copy editors about \$20. This tendency lingered on in Pakistan, though today journalism occasionally attracts top talent, mostly young people.

The glamour of journalism in Pakistan, however, is great and only matched by the influence of the individual journalists and editors. The most controversial, most powerful, and at the same time most colorful personality in the journalism of Pakistan is undoubtedly Altaf Husain, the editor of *Dawn*.

He is perhaps the best paid editor in the entire continent. He travels widely. He was Pakistan's delegate to the United Nations sub-committee on human rights, and a very eloquent speaker against colonialism. Many foreign observers, as well as Pakistan politicians, feel that he is also the "brain trust" behind the present government. He is so much a part of *Dawn* that it is now impossible to think of *Dawn* without Altaf Husain.

(Turn to page 18)



Donald Duncan is news editor of the Shelton-Mason County Journal, leading weekly newspaper in Washington.

FAR from the charged atmosphere of the city newsroom, in which life and love and death are systematically reported by men who eat and sleep fifteen-word leads, America's unsung army of grass roots reporters is at work.

From Maine to Washington thousands of weekly newspapers would fold quicker than you can say William Allen White if it were not for the indispensable, but much maligned, country correspondents.

No teletype speeds their news across continents to be translated into showy headlines, but their trembly Spenserian feeds news-hungry rural America.

What manner of men send "News Copy—Rush" to the weekly press, often with instructions to "print this just the way I have writ it, Mr. Editor"?

A few are farmers with the proverbial straw in their teeth and manure on their boots, and there are storekeepers, insurance salesmen and lumberjacks. But the majority are members of the class for whom the modern world was created: the Great American Housewife.

That Mrs. America is capable of taking a pencil in her dish water-red-dened hand and recording community doings with remarkable boldness is attested by such items as: "Tom Mason was driving down the streets of Cherokee last Saturday, drunk as

The country correspondent may consort with libel, commit mayhem on Webster and do some reckless driving among facts. But he—more often it is she—is a mainstay of the weekly newspaper. And the items are accurate when they end with

A Wonderful Time Was Had by All

By DON DUNCAN

usual, when he hit an automobile driven by the mayor." And "Grandma Huckins went to town to get her new false teeth and have her artificial leg adjusted."

The first was altered because Tom's sobriety was unchallenged by the investigating officer, but the latter was printed without change upon the request of Grandma Huckins, an 82-year-old darling, who is proud of her ability to conquer the "big city" (pop. 5,045) on a free-wheeling, plastic limb.

NINE out of ten rural correspondents come off second best in their weekly bout with Webster. Scorning burial as unworthy of a "staff" correspondent, they write *internment* for *interment*; *martial* replaces *marital* with hilarious results, and the *bride-groom* invariably is a *groom* (who, no doubt, slipped in from the stable to say "I do").

In the journalistic twilight zone, each club holds *their* meeting, funeral arrangements are *in charge* of the local funeral parlor, and Johnny Williamson is overseas with the United States Air Core.

Redundancies such as "Wilma Kornquist, who is a former one-time resident who used to live in Ruby, . . ." roll from the correspondent's pen like water over Niagara. And the poor man's Richard Harding Davis dotes on "the Vista Ladies club held a tea at which tea was served," and (from a particularly damp community on Washington's Hood Canal), "we are sorry to report the Oswald family is leaving our mist."

A correspondent whose geography was confined to barren hills she could see from the kitchen window, reported the remarks of a prominent rival publisher just returned from the Dominican Republic.

"Mr. Gillette," she wrote, "held us

spellbound with a wonderful talk on the Domino Republicans." The editorial laugh meter got an extra jolt because *spellbound* became *spell-bound* on her abused portable typewriter.

This same good woman consistently reported bridge and pinochle parties at which Mrs. Abel (a teetotaler) was high, and her husband (a deacon, with awesome purity of mind) was low.

When the Thursday publication date draws near, and the weekly news editor's "big city" ulcer becomes an irate companion, it takes something like this reportorial classic to save the day: "The Alter Society met . . . Mrs. R. W. Soderberg sang 'There'll Be Some Changes Made.'"

The hand writing—few correspondents type—runs the gantlet from copybook script to a scrawl that would make a medical prescription writer look to his laurels. One unbelievably bad penman dropped a note with her weekly contribution to the world's news to say she was getting a typewriter to make editing easier. The joy was shortlived, because her efforts looked like this: "mrms jones Baaack hOmeform, cALIferna adAre , , , most welcuM hom?"

ALTHOUGH most correspondents are more eager than able, a few college graduates or "naturals" blow real life into the use of a dowsing rod to locate a new well, or a benefit dance for the family whose home has burned down.

A feature article on a legless man who amused the younger set with stories and wood carvings, earned critical acclaim for a teen-age correspondent trained in the local high school journalism class. And an insurance salesman, reporting the activities of a little wine-making com-

(Turn to page 14)

How Open a Forum Does the Monopoly Newspaper Offer?

A survey reveals that editors in one-daily cities are keenly aware of their responsibility to print conflicting opinion. Getting readers to write it is something else.

By SAM TALBERT

DOES the editor in the one-daily city recognize a special responsibility to make his newspaper available as a forum for all voices in the community?

A new answer to this question might be found in a study completed in the School of Journalism of the State University of Iowa.

Critics of the press have frequently charged that the American press neither recognizes nor accepts the responsibility of providing an open forum for the community.

For instance, in his book "Freedom of Information," Herbert Brucker holds that it is the duty of the press to provide a "journalistic advocate for every noticeable point of view." He adds that the men who control the press do not see the responsibility, let alone accept it.

Mr. Brucker's opinions are shared in the report by the Commission on Freedom of the Press and others who have become concerned with the effect of centralization of newspaper ownership. Many of the critics feel that freedom of the press is being menaced by the failure of the press to provide an adequate outlet for varied opinions.

But the picture of a limited or closed forum is not presented by the University of Iowa study. On the contrary, an extensive survey indicates editors and publishers in monodaily communities are acutely aware of a special responsibility to make space available to all opinions in the community.

The Iowa study, a graduate research project in the School of Journalism, is based on 216 questionnaires returned from a national cross section of newspapers in one-daily communities. Reliability tests indicated that the responses came from a representative sample of monodaily newspapers. Newspapers with editorial competi-

tion in the same community were not included in the survey.

A number of questions were asked to determine how editors and editor-publishers felt about opening their columns for free public debate.

When the editors were asked if they felt the monodaily was "a special responsibility to serve as a forum for all local groups," 215 of 216 editors gave positive responses.

COMMENTS beyond simple "yes" answers show not only that the editors agree with the "critics" but that their opinions on the subject are even more vehement. Comments like the following were typical from all parts of the country:

"The newspaper should be regarded as a public utility."

"The newspaper in the two-newspaper town can give both sides. In the one-newspaper town it *must* give both sides."

"The newspaper is the house organ of the community and has a responsibility to all."

"It is the newspaper's responsibility to see that all people with ideas to express get a chance to express them."

"We make an effort to obtain and print conflicting views."

Some of the editors pointed out that the duty to provide a carrier of opinion did not relieve the editor of responsibilities of good editorial judgment. Typical of such comment was:

"The most vociferous group may be the most insignificant. If anything is in the public interest we try to print it."

"The responsibility is primarily in regard to local issues. There are other forums for distant issues."

"It should express various viewpoints but cannot become a Hyde Park and provide soap boxes without end."



Now associate professor of journalism at the University of Mississippi, Sam Talbert is a Georgian who has worked on various newspapers.

To check further the attitude of the editors on handling opinions different from their own, the survey posed a leading question:

"One editor has said that when he is firmly convinced he is on the right side of an issue, he believes it is foolish to give space to the other side. How do you feel about this?"

None of the 216 respondent editors agreed with the idea expressed. On the contrary, the disagreement was vigorous and eloquent, as indicated by the following comments:

"The idea is asinine and unAmerican. Truth survives on expression, not suppression."

"He needs a competitor. The newspaper *must* give space to all sides."

"That editor couldn't retain the respect of his readers."

"We prefer letters which don't agree with us."

"Nuts! Opinion is formed by discussion, not by an editor striking the true gospel on stone tablets. Who is this Moses?"

IN general, the editors felt that not only is the newspaper ethically and morally bound to give all sides of a question a hearing but also that it is sound business practice. Also, they felt that the policy should hold regardless of the competitive situation.

Many editors expressed the opinion that the policy of giving a fair voice to all sides was responsible for the survival of their papers during

(Turn to page 18)

An Indian Editor Reports on America

By W. E. O'BRIEN

This survivor of revolutionary journalism went to prison for his ideas under Gandhi. Now a visit to the United States gives him some new and more flattering ones on America and its people

TO many journalists, the question of freedom of press and information is more or less academic, but to Ranbir Singh, managing editor of the *Daily Milap*, of New Delhi, India, it is something very real. It is a principle in which he not only firmly believes but it is one for which he has fought and for which he risked his life.

As one of the followers of Gandhi and Nehru, Singh has been involved in all the struggles leading to the birth of a free India. As a publisher of a paper during the revolutionary years, he knew what it meant to be watched for a security breach against the government and he knew what it meant to be arrested for expressing his opinion and conspiring for freedom.

For three years he was held in jail, and every day he expected the death sentence to be pronounced against him. His cell mate, also jailed for revolutionary plotting, was hanged only a short time before Ranbir Singh's liberation.

Listening to his story, one is reminded, forcibly, of early newspapermen in our own country like John Peter Zenger or Elijah Lovejoy. Like them, this little man from India believed so much in liberty that he risked everything in seeking it for his fellow countrymen.

Singh is now visiting in America under the Exchange of Persons Act. During his first days in this country, he accepted an invitation to speak to a journalism class at American University in Washington on freedom of information. The story Singh told vividly emphasized that freedom is often bought at a sacrifice in other parts of the world, just as was our own.

"It was almost impossible to operate a printing business in India, before the new government took over, if the owner were known to oppose the old regime," he told the students. "We were required to post a 'security' bond and, if it was decided that the paper violated any government rules, that money was forfeit. Besides personal persecution, one was always threatened with bankruptcy."

This editor, however, said he resorted to revolutionary subterfuge and tricks to aid the cause in which he believed. Using his knowledge and skill as a journalist, he helped compose leaflets to bring the messages of encouragement to compatriots. At times, he helped set type by hand and delivered the printed information to some rebel rendezvous.

"One of the things which we did was to print the story of the lives of Irish patriots like de Valera and pass them out to our people. Of course, that was forbidden, but we rather fancied ourselves as the Irish of the East and our people read with relish the exploits of the Gaelic fighters," Ranbir Singh chuckled.

AS the India editor talked, he made the story of clandestine meetings, secret pamphleteering, and other surreptitious activities which usually play a role in revolutionary movements, sound much like a gay experience. But there was always the undertone of seriousness which drew the picture that a belief in freedom of information under the old governmental set-up would help draw up one's own death warrant.

At one time, in order to get outside funds, Ranbir Singh admits he joined the Communist party in India. Knowing that ultimately the Indian Communist party would be directed entirely from Moscow, he got out as quickly as he could and he said he has no intention of returning to an organization which would, if it took over, impose the same censorship against which he fought for many years.

Happily, this editor has now achieved the goal of freedom. He reports that in India the concepts of liberty are very much like America's. He quoted Prime Minister Nehru's philosophy on freedom of the press: "Freedom of the press can be dangerous, for liberty may lead to license; but I am willing to risk that in order to guarantee freedom of information."

Under such an atmosphere, Singh and his two younger brothers publish three simultaneous editions of the *Daily Milap* in three different cities—

New Delhi, Jullundur and Hyderabad. The combined circulation of these papers, is about 35,000. Each brother has charge of one of the three editions and Singh slyly indicated that his youngest brother, not yet steady on his journalistic feet after this sudden deliverance from censorship, might be just a little inclined to editorialize the news in glaring headlines.

While there are still means of restricting a newspaper in India through withholding a license for it, by and large the regulations under which the press does operate permit papers in India to cover most of the news for their readers.

"A paper can not comment on court cases, it must not incite race hatred or criticize a friendly foreign nation. Neither can it publish security or military news," Singh pointed out.

Many of the conditions for the working press are the same as in this country now that India gives journalists the privilege of going after the news. A press correspondent can approach any state official merely by presenting his press card.

"Not that there is any hesitancy on the part of these officials to talk to the press or to hold news conferences," Ranbir Singh exclaimed. "Rather, these new leaders, previously heads of the revolution and used to inciting people to action, usually welcome the opportunity to give a speech, even though it is to the press!"

HE went on to explain some of the working conditions for the press. He reported that Indian journalists also have a system of press correspondents and journalism associations. Every phase of newspaper work has its own guild or club. To become an accredited reporter, one must be accepted by a special central press advisory committee. Foreign correspondents merely have to present a letter from the editor of their paper to be accredited.

Journalists are aided in their efforts to get information by state and provincial information offices which prepare releases. The government takes pains to put on a special show for

reporters whenever some new project is completed. Reporters are given "box-office" treatment whenever there is some new development for the public welfare.

In addition, a reporter in India gets to travel on railroads at half-fare!

THE dissemination of news is carried on by news services similar to our own press associations. *Reuters*, *United Press of India* and *India News Service* are part of the network of news coverage.

"The greatest difficulty in our country now is not the lack of freedom of information, but the inability of our people to get it from us," the New Delhi editor stated. "In India, many of the people live in remote villages. Our literacy rate is only 15 per cent. For the great part of our population, the only news source is listening to an educated person read the daily papers aloud."

Singh demonstrated that, in spite of this handicap, the newspaper and periodical business continues to expand. During the period of paper shortages, there were 464 daily papers, 1,772 weekly papers, 1,868 monthly papers and 1,029 others. Now that the paper scarcity has been alleviated the number of daily papers has gone up to some 700.

SINGH expressed his gratitude at being able to see America as an Exchange Person under the Smith-Mundt Act. He felt that he came to this country with two advantages as a result of being a newspaperman.

First, he felt that he was better informed about the United States than most of his countrymen and, second, he has the aptitude for observing and ferreting out information. Even then he says he was amazed at what he saw!

As though he did not know quite what to make of it he said, "Frankly, I came to this country fully expecting to be subjected to government propaganda. I thought I would be told what to see and where to go and that the best side of America would be turned my way. I am very glad to say that this has not been true.

"I think that most of my impressions of America, before I came here, were faulty because I saw too many American movies. I thought you were a calculating people—only concerned with making a dollar.

"In fact, I was almost sure that every person I met would be either a millionaire or a crook or both," he continued.

Singh believes that the impressions he held were much like those of many people in his native land. In the minds



F. Clyde Wilkinson Photos

Ranbir Singh (center), managing editor of the New Delhi (India) *Daily Milap*, pays a visit to Senator Karl E. Mundt of South Dakota, co-author of the Smith-Mundt Act to bring such "exchange persons" to this country, in company with Howard Kany, Associated Pressman and associate editor of *The Quill*. Below, he tours Capitol Hill with Author W. E. O'Brien.



of the folks in New Delhi, there is little human kindness in us, our moral standards are doubtful, we live in a jazz-mad, machine tooled world, and our only recreation is figuring out how to pad our purses, without regard to ethics.

Many of Singh's people believe that we are so enthralled at our own ability to make things bigger, our buildings taller, and all else wider, longer and stronger that we don't mind stretching the truth in an effort to be impressive.

WHEN he visited the office of Senator Karl E. Mundt of South Dakota, he noticed a picture of Mt. Rushmore which is located in the Senator's home state. "Now there is something I always thought was an exaggeration," Singh declared.

"Yes, everything is quite different," the visiting editor said enthusiastically. "I am glad to be able to tell the readers of my paper what you are really like. People here are so kind to me, I feel like I am in my own house in India. You Americans have been more than thoughtful in making this trip exciting and informative.

"Another false impression I had was that you had very little culture in your country. I was sure that your homes would be built for utility and not comfort and I thought your buildings would all be modernistic office structures. I imagined your streets would not have any park areas, that they would be filled with hurrying people intent on business.

"Actually, I have been struck by the great beauty of public buildings in this country. The National Capitol and the Supreme Court buildings are wonder examples of beauty combined with utility. In India we have many beautiful buildings like the Taj Mahal and religious temples, but we do not have, as you do, many buildings for public service which are likewise works of art."

THE traveling editor, having been given the opportunity to see the American press in action through the cooperation of the Washington professional chapter of Sigma Delta Chi, which arranged a tour of the news spots that he wanted to visit, believes that the press of the United States and India are much alike.

He observed that both have the same standards, that both employed about the same methods in gathering and reporting the news and that newspapers in India, like ours, have similar criteria for selling advertising space and using columnists. He pointed out that, after all, the constitution of India was patterned after ours and

its journalists tried to accept many of the traditions of American newspapers.

The editor had to make an effort to like our food. Cut off from the brimstone and lightning spices used in India, he did the best he could with the few offered by restaurants. When lunching in the Senate dining room of the Capitol building, he "blackened out" a lamb chop with pepper and calmly ate it without touching water.

Singh expressed gratitude over the world leadership displayed by the United States and, especially, the great good that would come from understanding that could be developed between people all over the world under the Exchange of Persons program which brought him to America.

"I know that I shall feel kindly toward America when I return to India," he said. "I am glad that the program of exchange has been designed so that not only students, teachers and technicians participate. A far greater good will come from having editors and reporters travel from country to country because they can tell what they see and spread the information which leads to understanding."

A Wonderful Time Was Had by All

(Continued from page 10)

munity of eighty persons, each week pens comments like this:

"Not satisfied with the weekly black and white TV version of the bone-smashing efforts of 'The Mask,' and 'Honest John' (not a used car dealer), several of our citizens journeyed to the Shelton roller rink to take in the weekly wrestling card. Suspected reason: No beer commercials!"

Rural correspondents make a business of friendliness that often is alien to the "write it and forget it" city room. Since monetary reward borders on the infinitesimal, most correspondents write to serve that special slice of the nation's population they call "friend and neighbor."

Not that embryo Horace Greeleys don't enjoy identification with the glamour of news-reporting as popularized by B-grade motion pictures. They do. And many an established author has suppressed a chuckle on hearing a gingham-clad housewife described as "quite a writer. She's re-

AFTER leaving Washington, the India editor expected to see many points in America. Like most foreign travelers, he wanted to see Hollywood and New York. He likewise wanted to visit Texas oil fields, the Hoover dam, San Francisco and the Grand Canyon and Mt. Rushmore "just to make sure they are there."

He is immensely interested in the work we have done in harnessing water power to provide electricity. He wanted to know how that can be expanded in India to improve the standard of living there.

He wanted to see manufacturing plants, especially farm equipment and tractor factories, because those products are in great demand in India. He wanted to see how we make good in providing ease of living.

He wanted to see how children study, so he can tell his two daughters who are ten and fourteen years old. These young ladies have specialized in the English language and want to come to America, too.

"I want to see all these things, so I can tell my people at home," Singh said. "As a journalist I can do it. My eyes will be the windows through which they can see and understand America."

portin' for the Journal now, you know."

YET it is not easy to laugh off these amateur journalists, because possibly they put more people's names in print than do the combined press services of the world.

Weekly reporters care nothing for international intrigue, smoke-filled rooms and earth-shaking decisions by men in "Who's Who." They are worried about Widow Brown, who is in the hospital. And they tell her so with a "get well soon." They would rather write about, and their neighbors would rather read about, the big grange installation, the pretty new school teacher, and the box social at the church.

And sure as tomorrow will come, and kids will continue to believe in Santa Claus, the correspondent will end his big story on this high note (the hallmark of rural perfection) . . . A wonderful time was had by all.

It was, too.

Pix Okay If Jurors Don't Stray

By KEN METZLER

It takes fancy photography to meet this Oregon judge's simple rules for trial coverage but it pays off in news.

CCOURTROOM photo reporting of interesting trials has become part of the regular photography beat in Roseburg, Oregon.

Some courts throughout the nation still ban cameras from the courtroom and a few judges have seen fit to forbid pictures not only in court but in the courthouse as well.

Still clinging to ideas developed in the days when cameras approached the size of orange crates and flash powder set off explosions, these jurists maintain that courtroom pictures would upset "the dignity of the proceedings."

Realizing that cameras have dwindled considerably and that photographs can be taken in existing courtroom light, a friendly circuit court judge in this Oregon county has other ideas.

Judge Carl E. Wimberly permits pictures to be made in his court regularly and puts only one major restriction on the cameraman.

A photographer from the Roseburg *News-Review* told him that photographers could work in existing courtroom light, without moving around, and with no more commotion than the rustle of the notes of the reporter covering the trial.

"My main concern is that the jury is not distracted," the judge said. "If you can take your photographs in such a way that it doesn't draw the jury's attention from the testimony, I see no reason why you shouldn't go ahead with it."

For a while it looked as though the photographer had bitten off more than he could chew. Gaining permission from Judge Wimberly was simple compared to the technical task of working out where, how, and when to take pictures.

Variation in the fluorescent lighting of the courtroom caused several "blind spots" in the room where faces would



A defendant in a manslaughter case demonstrates for Douglas County (Ore.) prosecutor Robert Davis how he jabbed at a man with a pocket knife. This is typical of the action pictures permitted in court by Judge Carl E. Wimberly provided the photographer does not distract the attention of the jury.

be shaded and cause poor pictures. And, it developed later, a bald attorney was likely to lose the top of his head if light reflections from the bald spot caused it to blend into the light background.

Light readings showed that at an f 3.5 opening—the widest of the camera used—pictures would have to be taken at a speed of one-fifth second. That was too slow. The probability of camera movement and/or subject movement required one-twenty-fifth second speed at the very most.

The problem finally was solved by compensating in the darkroom with twice normal development, and an infinite amount of painstaking burning and dodging to compensate for the multitude of light variations.

ANOTHER problem—that of where to base the photography operations—was solved by sitting in the front row of the audience, with a clear view of the witness stand some twenty-five feet away. Several dry runs in an unoccupied courtroom proved that, if nothing else, images showed up on the negatives.

The real test came when one defendant went on trial for the bathtub drowning of his wife. The first pictures looked like something your Aunt Agatha might have accomplished with a pin hole camera. Short

witnesses disappeared behind the court stenographer who sat in front of the witness stand. Attorneys became "amputees" when the photographer tried to catch a gesture and the movement of the arms or hands was too fast for the slow shutter speed.

But not one member of the jury turned to investigate that faintly audible "click" of the shutter (which the self-conscious photographer described as sounding to him like a cannon in a barrel).

AS the trial progressed, results became better. While the court went through a series of four murder trials in one term (a record for sparsely-settled Douglas county) photographers returned with better and better shots.

There was some action, too, such as a defendant re-enacting a stabbing.

Because of a large amount of interest in the series of murder trials, Judge Wimberly has allowed pictures throughout. As this is written, two more murder trials are on the docket for later this year. These, too, will be given complete photographic coverage.

Complete, that is, except for one picture which will always remain untaken. Judge Wimberly has given strict orders on that point.

"I don't want myself in any of the pictures," he says. And he means it.

Book Charts No Man's Land

(Continued from page 7)

strangely neglected field, Harold Cross began to accumulate a body of information about information, and the scope of his report to the Society took rapid form.

At this point we had a choice to make. The committee could work with him and put his findings into a journalistic mold, creating a book (the board of directors had decided that publication was essential) which might enjoy a fairly wide lay readership by dramatizing many of the conflicts between press and officialdom.

But Herbert Brucker of the *Hartford Courant* already had written a book called "Freedom of Information." It was a thoughtful and arresting study of the whole problem and of its bearing upon the competence of the electorate in a democratic society.

THE board, now headed by Alexander F. Jones of the *Syracuse Herald Journal*, decided that what we needed was a scholarly, legally documented presentation of the subject—how the concept of free information grew up over the centuries, what response had been made in this country by courts and legislators.

This book will prove the wisdom of that decision.

Harold Cross has written with full understanding of the public stake in open government, and at the same time has produced a critically needed legal study which will serve as a beacon to every editor who collides with the red-tape curtain with which so many officers of government try to shroud their official actions.

The reader will find charted for the first time the relevant main features of that baffling region where the management of all our political units either shows clear for all to see, or takes on curious protective colors, or just vanishes mysteriously from mortal sight.

Sometimes the loss is a perfectly legal one, as when your personal income tax return is protected from curious eyes. Sometimes a court, lacking any clear legislative guidance, will side against the people's fundamental right to know, though many a ringing restatement of this right is on record too. And sometimes political sleight-of-hand wraps a cloud around the truth as deftly as a goddess protecting a favorite on the battlefields of Troy.

The potential uses of the book, once its content is known, go far beyond those of the working newspaper man.

At this midpoint of the Twentieth Century the need for full information about increasingly complex government has become a personal one for every citizen concerned with doing his share toward survival. In our mail and in the committee's personal contacts repeatedly comes the question: Where can we get organized material on this subject with actual experiences recorded and lines of action indicated? This volume is our answer.

The legal profession itself lacks a ready reference work in an area quite obscure to most lawyers. Newspaper lawyers have learned much about libel, about labor union dealings and other familiar problems of the daily press. But few of them have specialized in any degree in the laws affecting access to public information. Indeed, we have knowledge of too many cases where newspaper lawyers have timidly refused to go into court and challenge news suppression. They knew not what to do.

Journalism schools are becoming interested in courses on Freedom of Information, and Harold Cross now has provided an invaluable source-book.

Finally, many citizens have become aroused over the area of public information which has been withdrawn gradually from the public's ken. This is especially true of some members of Congress who, operating in a comparative goldfish bowl, have discovered through reports to the ASNE that their colleagues in the executive branch of the national government have been according themselves extensive immunity from the public gaze. They will doubtless want to read and refer to this book. So will many other Americans in various walks of life who have come to realize that no citizen can perform his duty in a democracy out of ignorance or partial truth.

AS chairman of the Freedom of Information committee since April, 1950, I am in the debt of so many for counsel, for assistance, and for courageous example in the destruction of news barriers, that I cannot begin to discharge it here.

The committee members who helped "Stuff" Walters blaze many trails and set the signal flares played an essential part. Those who have served on the Freedom of Information Committee since Harold Cross joined us, and so are in substantial measure responsible for this report, are:



James S. Pope, author of the Cross foreword, is chairman of the ASNE freedom of information committee.

Paul Block, Jr., Leon Stolz, S. L. Latimer, Jr., Felix McKnight, Herbert F. Corn, Philip H. Parrish, Harry S. Ashmore, Frank L. Dennis, Nelson P. Poynter, George A. Smallsreed, William P. Steven, J. Russell Wiggins, George W. Healy, Jr., Herbert Brucker, Walter P. Jones, Dale B. Stafford.

The boards of directors which have supported the committee's not always orthodox actions, and embraced without reservation the long-range aims of the campaign, have extended the Society's frontiers and made it possible to take leadership against a fateful challenge.

FOR Harold Cross our committee feels a very warm personal affection along with our respectful gratitude. Perhaps only the chairman knows the Herculean scope of his labors—labors never limited by what we asked or by what anyone might reasonably expect. Enlisted as adviser, he became our leader.

His report speaks for his breadth of mind, for the easy erudition which can place each change in the long perspective of history, for his scrupulous intellectual integrity, and for his mastery of the intricacies of this sphere of politico-legal evolution. But we know too of his infinite patience, of his diligence in responding to all the appeals for help from editors who seemed to consider him as their paid counsel, and for his devotion to the principle on which all our efforts are based.

We would feel quite badly about having imposed upon him if we did not know that he will get from his work the highest of all satisfactions, that of a job ably and lovingly done.

THE QUILL for May, 1953



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An English Language Press Dominates Pakistan

(Continued from page 9)

Prior to coming to this paper, which was founded by Jinnah (the father of Pakistan) from his own funds and later created a trust, Altaf Husain was a professor of English drama in an East Pakistan university. Under an assumed name he also gave the Muslim view point in a column for the *Statesman*, India's best produced and most impartial newspaper.

Short, dark, quick-tempered but amiable, a chain cigarette smoker, and a little over 50, Altaf Husain has displayed enough power to uproot provincial chief ministers, eliminate federal cabinet ministers and appoint ambassadors.

ALTAH HUSAIN is essentially a thinker and an excellent writer of English. Sometimes his writings reflect vindictiveness, for he has a vitriolic pen. But for the most part he writes with a passion, a sincerity, and a fondness for the cause he holds dear. And it must be said that very often the cause he upholds is the right one.

His reactions to events are quick, his intuitions almost prophetic, and the speed with which he dictates his editorials (which are seldom less than 2,000 words) is terrific. The foreign correspondents in Pakistan invariably get their views on Pakistan from what he writes.

But with all his brilliance as a writer and thinker, Altaf Husain is technically no journalist. He doesn't know the difference between a cutline and a hanging balance. So he has gathered around him the best available talent.

The way he makes them work is either a compliment to his inspiring leadership or a reflection on the personality of those who work with him. Very often at staff conferences his vocal anger has sent many an associate literally into tears.

On issues nearer home Altaf Husain is an expert, above provincial bias, and unafraid to strike even at the cabinet ministers. He derives his power from the cabinet and not from the people; yet he can be critical of the former in the interests of the latter.

It is this which gives his paper its importance. But his personality has a lot to do with his newspaper, and at times his personal biases can affect his praise and blame.

I cite *Dawn* as an example of the fact that the press of Pakistan is more or less a personal form of journalism.

In fact, it is very similar to the type that existed in this country and England in the 19th century.

For all Pakistanian newspapers reflect strongly the personality of their editors. And this personality is reflected not merely in the editorials but also in reporting and news play.

How Open a Forum Does the Monopoly Paper Offer?

(Continued from page 11)

the period when competition was being eliminated.

"The standards on which I believe a newspaper should be run would not vary regardless of competition," one editor wrote.

Another typical comment was: "One newspaper or one-half dozen—the newspaper should print readers' views on questions of public interest."

The foregoing comments seem to leave little doubt about the awareness of the editors of a responsibility to give a voice to all opinions in the community. In fact the editors appear to be even more liberal than most of the critics in their judgment of opinions that "deserve" a hearing.

The Commission on Freedom of the Press, for instance, held that many opinions deserve no public hearing. The editors, on the other hand, are inclined to the view that any sincere opinion deserves a hearing—so long as the expression does not violate decency and the laws of libel.

YET, there is a discrepancy between practice and expressed ideals. In the first place, the editors almost universally noted that the individual citizen often refuses to use the newspaper forum to express his opinions.

Furthermore, the editor retains a responsibility to maintain a certain amount of order and unity in the community. He must make judgments in the light of hazy laws of criminal and civil libel. Hence, what different editors might accept as printable varies widely. This is especially true in the areas of religious and racial controversy.

Thus, what appears to be suppression of opinion to one editor might

Fortunately for readers of *Dawn*, Altaf Husain is incorruptible.

Nevertheless, the danger in English journalism in Pakistan is a tendency toward slowly creeping dishonesty, deviation from the cardinal principles of good journalism, and a tendency to exploit the newspapers for petty political and financial gains.

These drawbacks in English journalism will probably disappear with time—but not until the rate of literacy goes up, the country as a whole wakes to year-round political interest, and the newspapers no longer remain in the hands of a few.

seem to another to be a dutiful exercise of responsibility. Differences in what is actually published appear to be the reflection of an irresolvable conflict of responsibilities, expressed by a Midwestern editor as follows:

"Our experience is that we do not get enough good letters on important subjects and we get too many petty letters, poorly written, often contradictory and confused.

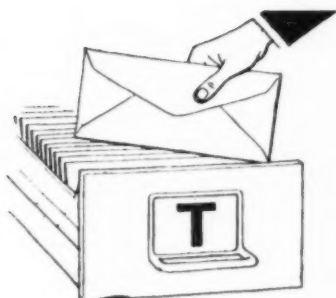
"An editor needs the wisdom of Solomon as well as the patience of Job. I don't think there is any sure rule, but the best one I know is to try to be fair and observe good taste."

A Midwestern editor commented that newspapers often appear to be closed to open discussion among readers simply because the editors can not get readers to express themselves publicly. He expressed the opinion that reluctance of the citizen to express himself is due to fear of social and professional pressures, indifference, and plain laziness. He commented:

"Time and time again, people have come into my office with blood in their eyes, pounding their fists on my desk and demanding that I write an editorial about so-and-so. But when I hand them a pencil and paper and tell them that I will print anything they write, they apologize and leave."

Thus, the University of Iowa study indicates that what critics have judged as an absence of a community platform is more accurately a platform which is readily available but not used. But this raises another question.

Does the editor in the one newspaper community have a further responsibility to stimulate the public to make use of the platform the newspaper provides?



LIVE ITEMS FROM OUR MORGUE

The trucking industry is now AMERICA'S N° 2 EMPLOYER



Photograph by Fabian Bachrach

ONE OUT OF EVERY 11 paychecks in the United States is paid directly by the trucking industry. More than six million Americans work as drivers, terminal employees and in other employment directly connected with the trucking industry all over our country. Many more workers are in trucking than in all iron, steel, and mining combined. Four times as many as in all U.S. railroads combined. Only agriculture employs more people.

These facts may round out the bare statement, made recently by an outstanding transportation authority, that trucks have been "the biggest single factor in our expanding economy of the past 15 years."

Walter J. Carey
President,
American Trucking Associations



AMERICAN TRUCKING INDUSTRY

American Trucking Associations, Inc., Washington 6, D.C.

The Book Beat

By DICK FITZPATRICK

POSTWAR world tension has made the discussion of freedom more than the mental exercise of academicians. It is constantly in the mind of the intelligent citizen and is certainly the subject of billions of words each year in the channels of mass communications. Unfortunately, most of it is verbiage which confuses rather than furnishes enlightened discussion which clarifies the problem and contributes to understanding by the average reader, listener and viewer.

With the subject so important and with so much of the content of mass mediums devoted to discussions of freedom, it seems rather fundamental that today's journalist will need a background for his reporting in this area.

The needed background and points of view will be found in **"Freedom and Authority in Our Time"** (Harper and Brothers, New York, \$6.00). This 767 page, indexed book contains the papers read and comments made at the Twelfth Symposium of the Conference on Science, Philosophy and

Religion. The book is edited by four educators—Lyman Bryson, Louis Finkelstein, R. M. MacIver and Richard P. McKeon.

The fifty-seven chapters in this book are organized under these six topics: Freedom and authority in practical life; freedom and governmental authority, national and international; freedom and legal authority; freedom and authority as cultural and social phenomena; postulates of theories of freedom and authority, and the definition of freedom and authority.

Seven of the papers in the first section deal with the question of freedom and authority in industry, labor organizations and government. Thus, they have some immediate practical value to the newsman who so often has to interpret conflict in these three fields.

While most of the papers in the second section emphasize a legalistic point of view, several of them deal with questions of international relations including one entitled "Some Thoughts on the Soviet Concept of Authority." The next part deals solely with legal authority.

A paper on "Communication in Self Governing Organizations" by Karl W. Deutsch, professor of history at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, is among the interesting collection that makes up the fourth section. The examination of freedom and authority as cultural and social phenomena develops many fresh insights and problems if one wants to study this area thoroughly and with objectivity.

THE last two sections discuss basic concepts of freedom and authority. These are interesting but somewhat difficult reading. "Freedom and Authority in Our Time" is strongly recommended for all newsmen as a book well worth buying and studying. It is a book that one is most likely to read piecemeal—at times when one feels like serious reading.

An example of the value of this book to those engaged in journalism can be seen in the paper entitled "Notes on a Theory of Advice" by Columbia University professor Lyman Bryson. He outlines the many problems that exist in an organization before an outside expert is called in for advice and the internal dynamics of an organization he must contend with.

The public relations man is constantly in this position and more and more we find the journalism professor

is being called in as an expert, particularly by government. Also, the working newsman has to handle complicated stories dealing with an expert's report on an organization or problem. The reporter can have a better understanding of what went into the report and whether anything will ever result from it if he understands some of the essential background involved in the use of experts by organizations whether they be governmental, industrial or educational.

This book represents the views of a wide variety of scholars. It is the result of a serious weighing of the problem and is not the result of activity aimed primarily at selling books which so many modern discussions of freedom are. It gives the reader the very important and intellectually stimulating job of judging these views and making up his mind on the basis of rationality rather than emotion.

WE have come a long way since a dictionary was defined as "a malevolent literary device for cramping the growth of a language and making it hard and inelastic."

But according to J. H. Friend and D. B. Guralnik, general editors of **"Webster's New World Dictionary of the American Language—College Edition"** (The World Publishing Co., Cleveland and New York, \$5.00 plain edges, \$6.00 thumb indexed) this new dictionary plays "the role of a friendly guide, pointing out the safe, well travelled roads" of our language. The editors' foreword certainly wins friends for the book.

This college edition of Webster's New World Dictionary has more than 142,000 entries. It contains a single alphabetical listing so that the user does not have to check separate lists for proper names, foreign words and phrases, abbreviations and the like. The editors have taken good advantage of typography to make life easier for the user of this dictionary.

Particularly noteworthy is a 20-page essay by Harold Whitehall on the English language. There is much interesting material here and it is particularly recommended for anyone who has not or is not likely to do any reading about language. This 1,760 page book is an excellent modern dictionary with 1,200 illustrations.

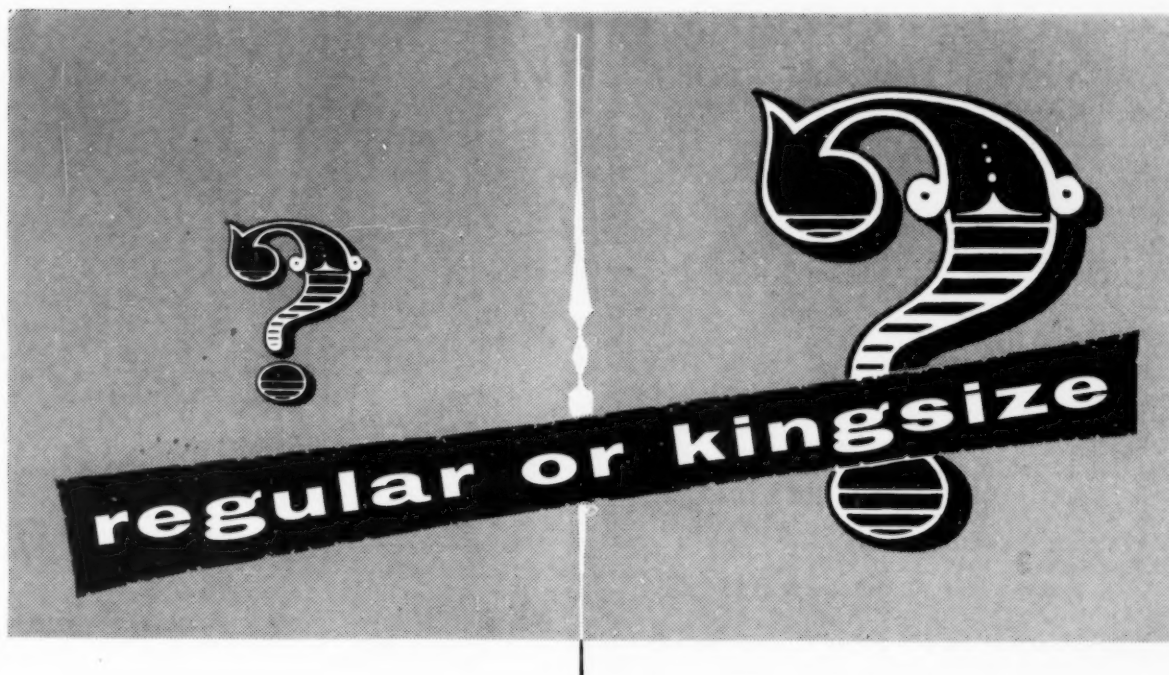
In a 206 page book, Robert E. Summers has done a good job of compiling a selection of material on **"America's Weapons of Psychological Warfare"** (H. W. Wilson Co., New York, \$1.75). This reference item contains a good deal of previously unpublished evaluation data on mass mediums in international information.

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THE QUILL for May, 1953

From Quill Readers

Editor, *The Quill*:

Shades of George Horace Lorimer!

Now they've gotten up a training program for slick magazines. Well, ain't that something? Just the thing to stifle the budding author. Printers' ink, ad copy and statistics—what a deathless combination!

Why bother to train 'em, let's breed 'em! Consider these advantages:

Breeding is statistically favorable. Unless there's some Mendelian throw-back, the offspring of talented slick statisticians should be talented slick statisticians. Therefore there is not even a slim possibility of economic loss.

Breeding for the trade eliminates the human factor in creative ability. It nurtures it like a hot house plant. Feed the embryo the proper chemicals, preferably hydroponically to accent the artificiality of the process, and it will mature already to fit into a planned pattern of activity.

This will eliminate the necessity of spiking good story material because such human elements as ethics and moral patterns will be non-extant.

No problem of clashing personalities will spoil the editorial rooms of the well-bred, slick mag. Individuals will be bred out of existence, and a statistically ordered creative mind will love the editor and know just when to lay off the martinis.

The breeding process will make a complete nonentity of the managing editor who rejects a story with the terse note, "Damn it. Put some sex in it."

The properly bred editor's note will read: "Statistics show that sex is a factor in the readership of our publication. Your ignorance of this important factor indicates that you are evidently the offspring of an inferior sire and dam. Suggest you seek employment in some related field."

"Our survey, made by leading psycho-statisticians, seems to indicate that your talent lies in the field of lumber-jacking."

"Statistically speaking, you're fired."

Oh, happy day! We'll inbreed the slick fiction formula, sit back and reap

the profits. I'm glad to be a newspaperman.

Jack Mather,
The Mercury

Pottstown, Pa.

(EDITOR'S NOTE—Jack Mather's letter led the editors to inquire, with some concern, just what *THE QUILL* might have done to set him off. Jack replied that neither we, nor anybody else in particular, had annoyed him. He just doesn't believe that writers can be made so he suggested, with hopeful irony, that we try breeding 'em.

(He ascribed his apparent truculence to childhood influences. His mother read him poetry at a very tender age, it seems, while his father paid him a bounty of 10 cents a black eye, cash on delivery.)

Editor, *The Quill*:

I'd like to take this opportunity to express my thanks for the fine issues of *The Quill* which reached me during my combat tour of Korea. Not only did they provide many hours of recreational reading, but they kept me in touch with journalism and its problems during my stay. The magazine was also looked forward to by other non-journalist B-26 crewmen.

Morris F. Briggs

Smoky Hill AFB
Salina, Kan.

Editor, *The Quill*:

Just a note from the chilly prairies to let you know that I enjoyed and learned from Richard L. Neuberger's article in the January edition of *THE QUILL*, "Is the Independent Journalist Obsolete?" I've been fighting the battle—a little less successfully than he has—and I've learned how a guy must find a story in every nook, cranny and hidden place.

These are some of my widely varied pieces in the last several months: "Black Dragon of Munsan-ni" (Press train in Korea) for *Wheels*, "An Information File Can Save You Money" for *Successful Farming*, "Sanitary Fills Pay Off in Seattle" for *Public Works*, "Churches of Ammunition Crates" for *Oregon Journal Magazine*, "Notes on Type Legibility Studies" for *Pacific Printer & Publisher*, "Japanese Fish with Birds—Not Hooks" for *Junior Catholic Messenger*, and "The Commander Carves a Fleet" for *Popular Mechanics*.

I've been following his articles rather closely since I took my master's in

journalism at the University of Oregon in 1949. I certainly admire his versatility and prolific typewriter. Thanks for his *QUILL*-borne tip on writing with "personal individuality." I hope it sells a couple pieces for me.

I'll be looking forward to more Neuberger pieces in *THE QUILL*.

Robert F. Karolevitz
Mission Hill, S. D.

Editor, *The Quill*:

We here at the University of North Dakota have been following *The Quill* and wish to commend you on the fine job you have been doing with the magazine.

Lloyd B. Omdahl
Grand Forks, N. D.

Editor, *The Quill*:

Dr. Buelke's article in *The Quill* for February was food for thought as was the editor's critique in the March issue. These are welcome, enlightened evaluations of the precepts of responsible citizenship—and journalism—for a democracy in intellectual trouble.

Max W. Milbourn
Director of Public Service
Kansas State College
Manhattan, Kan.

A reader is anxious to get extra copies of the March, 1953 issue of *THE QUILL*. If you can spare your copy, send it to John Gilbert, Training Director Meredith Publishing Company, Des Moines, Iowa.

Reporting

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THE

QUILL

THE QUILL for May, 1953

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THESE THREE TEEN-AGERS are officers of a company that earns a profit and has declared a dividend. They are studying samples of their product—a type of watering can. In the center is Michael Karagianis, 18, president of the Doo-Zee

Novelty Company, Chicago. With him are Susan McKee, 16, secretary (sitting), and Barbara Jebavy, 16, treasurer. This Junior Achievement project is one of twenty-nine sponsored by the Standard Oil Company.

HE'S A COMPANY PRESIDENT AT 18

Michael Karagianis is 18 and a college freshman. He is also the president of a successful company—the Doo-Zee Novelty Company, which manufactures watering cans.

This is not too unusual. Thousands of American boys and girls between the ages of 15 and 21 run businesses that make everything from salad dressing to desk calendars.

They have rent to pay, books to keep, supplies to buy, payrolls to meet and merchandise to sell. They must find investors for their company stock and endeavor to pay dividends to their stockholder-owners—who share the risk with them.

These boys and girls are members of Junior Achievement, a national organization. Its members learn the problems and responsibilities of business and why a profit is necessary to stay in business.

They receive character-building training in leadership, initiative and teamwork.

Each of these miniature companies is sponsored by an established and successful firm.

Standard Oil, for example, sponsors twenty-nine Junior Achievement projects throughout the Midwest. Scores of our ablest employees contribute their experience and time to help train these teen-age businessmen.

Although Standard Oil is a big company, it is not too big nor too busy to be interested in 18-year-old Michael and other teen-agers.

In fact, we think it's a privilege to pass on the lessons of our experience to these boys and girls.

Standard Oil Company (INDIANA)



ONE OF THE FIRST principles of success in business is to keep track of your money—both incoming and outgoing. Pat Santucci, of our Sales Accounting Department, shows Barbara and Susan an efficient way to keep books. Though Standard Oil financial reports show figures in the hundreds of millions of dollars, Mr. Santucci emphasizes the importance of accurate accounting for even the smallest company.



SHOWING A MEMBER of the Doo-Zee Novelty Company how to handle a knotty production problem is Standard Oil's Dean E. Hastings. Though small in comparison, Doo-Zee's production problems are as vital to that company's success as are those of Standard Oil. Last year more than 2,000 petroleum products were produced and distributed by Standard Oil and its subsidiary companies, employing over 51,000 people.



IF A COMPANY can't sell the merchandise it produces, it won't live long in our competitive system. That's as it should be, with the consumer having the final word. Here Kenneth Apel, standing, and Roland Schmitt, beside him, both of Standard Oil's sales department, give Doo-Zee salesmen some sound advice: Good products at reasonable prices will be successful. Last year Standard Oil's sales totaled \$1,550,000,000.

No Cheese-Cake, but...

We'll put it up to you squarely—if you're looking for cheese-cake, you won't find it in Editor & Publisher.

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